THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b), (d) and (e) The proposal was not considered favourably by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a branch of Mallabhum Gramin Bank was already functioning at the centre. Moreover, the Block Para in which the centre is located is adequately banked as per population norms The centre was also not identified by the State Government under the previous Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90. Regional Rural Banks are permitted to undertake transactions relating to drawing of pay, pension, making of drafts, collection of crossed cheques, etc, except locker facility, subject to their administrative convenience.

(c) The information regarding the type of facilities already provided and which can be provided at the said branch by Mallabhum Gramin Bank is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Participation of representatives from small scale industries sector on the board of Directors of Small Industries Development Bank of India

846 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether suggestions have been received for participation of representatives from the small scale industries sector on the Board of Directors of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI);

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestions made; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government on the issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are some of the important suggestions:

(i) There should be at least five representatives of Small Scale Industries on the Board of Directors of SIDBI, one from each of the five regions of India

(ii) Out of these five, at least four should be from the tiny sector

(iii) The representatives should be known for their positive contribution in the promotion, growth and development of the small scale sector

(iv) The representatives should themselves be entrepreneurs and their credentials should be checked.

(v) However, experts and individual can be accommodated in the national and regional advisory committees which are going to be formed.

(c) The powers to appoint the Directors representing the Small Scale Sector are vested not in Government but in IDBI in terms of Section 6 (i) (d) (iv) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989

Taking over of sick textile mills by N.T.C.

847. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that when the Textile mills turn sick, the National Textile Corporation takes them over and sells cloth at lower rates forcing healthy mills to lower their prices and in the process healthy units too turn sick, and

(b) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken to avoid such situations?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV). (a) and (b) National Textile Corporation was incorproated with a view to managing the affairs

of sick textile mills takenover/nationalised by the Government from time to time, for rehabilitating and modernising them, for making them economically viable. It is not correct to state that NTC sells cloth at lower rates. The prices of products of NTC mills are fixed on the basis of demand and supply position in the market as also in relation to costs of each item.

848 [*Transferred to the 8th January,* 1991.]

Demand for a High Court Bench at Dibrugarh

849. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a long pending demand from the people of Upper Assam as well as the Bar to set up a High Court Bench at Dibrugarh; and

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) Representations have been received for establishing a Bench of Gauhati High Court in the Barak Valley of Assam

(b) No action has been taken by the Central Government as no proposal has been received from the Government of Assam in this regard.

Recommendations by Orissa government for setting up a private unit of ferro nickel in cuttack

850. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Orissa Government has suggested to the Central Government that a Letter of Intent to a private party be issued to set up a unit in district Cuttack for the manufacture of 52000 tonnes per annum of Ferro Nickel; and

(b) if so, what action the Union Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL). (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lapsed LIC Policies

851. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of insurance policies issued by the Bombay Divisional Office of Life Insurance Corporation under its salary savings scheme are getting lapsed every year for want of premia collection procedure from the employers of the insured,

(b) whether the Corporation has also not been collecting the premia after the transfer of the insured from one place to another;

(c) whether some of the insured have sought exemption for delayed payment of premia which mostly arose due to the failure of the Corporation to collect the same,

(d) whether the Bombay Divisional Office has been holding on the subject since long and as a result some insured have sought refunds of paid up premia, and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) to (d)